

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a pneumatic tire, comprising:
supporting both bead portions of a green tire by a pair of holders to which
opposite axial ends of a bladder are tightly attached separately from a vulcanizer;
joining the pair of holders to each other and supplying a liquid into the bladder to
preliminarily inflate the bladder and green tire into a ~~toroidal~~ toroidal shape;
transferring the preliminarily inflated bladder and green tire into the vulcanizer,
together with the holders, after the preliminary inflation;
supplying a heat medium into the bladder after transfer to the vulcanizer to
thereby vulcanize the green tire and form a vulcanized tire;
transferring the vulcanized tire, together with the holders and the bladder, from
the vulcanizer to a post-cure inflator;
attaching the holders to a rotary shaft of the post-cure inflator;
rotating the rotary shaft of the post-cure inflator to thereby cool the vulcanized
tire; and
accelerating cooling of the vulcanized tire, by supplying a low-temperature liquid
into the bladder.
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid
supplied into the bladder for preliminary inflation is a high-temperature liquid for preheating
the bladder and green tire prior to transfer into the vulcanizer.
- 3.-4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing a pneumatic tire, comprising:

a preprocessing machine comprised of (i) joining means for mutually joining a pair of holders supporting both bead portions of a green tire, respectively, and (ii) preliminary inflating means for supplying a liquid into a bladder having opposite axial ends tightly attached to the holders, respectively, to preliminarily inflate the bladder and green tire into a ~~toroidal~~ toroidal shape;

a vulcanizer for supplying a heat medium into the bladder and green tire, to thereby vulcanize the green tire and form a vulcanized tire;

a transfer means for transferring device that transfers the preliminarily inflated bladder and green tire, together with the holders, from the preprocessing machine to the vulcanizer; vulcanizer, and that transfers the vulcanized tire, together with the holders and the bladder, from the vulcanizer to a post-cure inflator;

means for circulating liquid through the bladder; and

means for heating and/or cooling the liquid as the liquid is circulated through the bladder.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the means for heating and/or cooling the liquid is a heater.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the means for heating and/or cooling the liquid is a heat exchanger.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing a pneumatic tire, comprising:
a preprocessing machine comprised of (i) joining means for mutually joining a pair of holders supporting both bead portions of a green tire, respectively, and (ii) preliminary inflating means for supplying a liquid into a bladder having opposite axial ends tightly attached to the holders, respectively, to preliminarily inflate the bladder and green tire into a ~~toroidal~~ toroidal shape;

a vulcanizer that supplies a heat medium into the bladder and green tire, to thereby vulcanize the green tire and form a vulcanized tire;

a first transfer device that transfers the preliminarily inflated bladder and green tire, together with the holders, from the preprocessing machine to the vulcanizer; and that transfers the vulcanized tire, together with the holders and the bladder, from the vulcanizer to a post-cure inflator, and is usable to attach the holders to a rotary shaft of the post-cure inflator;

a rotator that rotates the rotary shaft of the post-cure inflator to thereby cool the vulcanized tire;

a cooling acceleration system that accelerates cooling of the vulcanized tire by supplying a low-temperature liquid to the bladder; and

a second transfer device that transfers the cooled vulcanized tire, together with the holders and the bladder, from the post-cure inflator to the preprocessing machine.